

## Message Text

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71-62

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SS-15 DPW-01 DHA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 /085 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:LMPETERS/FMLC

APPROVED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

EA:PCHABIB

D/HAPW:FSIEVERTS

EUR/NE:PCANNEY

S/S:MR. BORG

EUR/WE:WHMARSH (SUBS.)

----- 077037

R 191517Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 273671

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, CASC, JA, SW, VS

SUBJECT: ROK NATIONALS IN SAIGON

1. ROK AMBASSADOR HAHM CALLED ON DEPUTY SECRETARY  
NOVEMBER 10 TO SEEK US ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN SECURING  
REPATRIATION OF ROK CITIZENS AND DIPLOMATS STILL IN SAIGON  
HAHM SAID 162 KOREANS REMAIN THERE, INCLUDING 8 OFFICIALS  
OF FORMER ROK EMBASSY. LATTER GROUP MISSED LAST HELI-  
COPTER FROM AMEMBASSY COMPOUND APRIL 30: ROK AMBASSADOR TO  
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SAIGON AND OTHER ROK EMBASSY STAFF, PLUS MOST OF KOREAN

COMMUNITY IN SAIGON, GOT OUT ON EARLIER HELICOPTERS OR ABOARD KOREAN LST'S THEN IN SAIGON. ONE MEMBER OF EMBASSY STAFF ESCAPED LATER BY SMALL BOAT. ROKG IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT FATE OF EIGHT DIPLOMATS. TWO HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED SINCE JUNE WHILE THE FORMER MINISTER, LEE, WAS PICKED UP OCTOBER 3 AND PRESUMABLY INCARCERATED; REMAINING FIVE EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN CALLED IN SUCCESSION FOR INTERROGATION. ACCORDING TO HAHM, ROKG HAS NO CONTACT WITH KOREANS IN SAIGON AND HAS BEEN UNABLE TO ASSURE THEY HAVE FUNDS OR FOOD FOR DAILY SUBSISTENCE.

2. HAHM SAID ROKG IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BECAUSE IT UNDERSTANDS NORTH KOREANS HAVE ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES IN

SAIGON. THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE INTERROGATIONS COULD HAVE PAINFUL AND VERY DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE IMPRISONED DIPLOMATS.

3. HAHM SAID ROKG IS ALSO CONCERNED THAT ITS INABILITY TO SECURE RETURN OF KOREANS FROM SAIGON COULD SUBJECT IT TO CRITICISM AND THAT THE DIPLOMATS MIGHT BE FORCED TO MAKE BROADCASTS ON PYONGYANG RADIO.

4. IN RESPONSE, DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID US IS SYMPATHETIC BUT US INFLUENCE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IS VERY LIMITED HE NOTED THAT NINE AMERICANS CAPTURED IN CENTRAL VIET-NAM LAST SPRING WERE NOT RELEASED UNTIL OCTOBER 30, WHILE 50 OTHERS STILL AWAIT PERMISSION TO LEAVE SAIGON. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE NINE JUST RELEASED HAD SHARED PROLONGED DETENTION WITH AUSTRALIAN, CANADIAN AND PHILIPPINE NATIONALS. VIETNAMESE NEVER GAVE ANY EXPLANATION FOR LONG IMPRISONMENT OF THESE PEOPLE, NOR HAVE THEY EXPLAINED REPEATED AND ARBITRARY DELAYS IN DEPARTURE OF 50 AMERICANS FROM SAIGON.

5. DEPUTY SECRETARY SUGGESTED ROKG SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM JAPAN AND SWEDEN; JAPAN HAS RECENTLY OPENED AN EMBASSY IN HANOI, AND SWEDES MAINTAINED GOOD RELATIONS WITH HANOI THROUGHOUT THE WAR. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING US WOULD SUPPORT THE ROK AND THAT US EFFORTS WOULD PARALLEL THOSE  
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OF ROKG.

6. AS HE LEFT DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY, AMBASSADOR HAHM QUERIED DEPTOFFS ABOUT LIMITS ON US INFLUENCE IN SECURING DEPARTURE OF AMERICANS FROM VIET-NAM AND ASKED WHETHER US HAS HAD "DIRECT CHANNEL" TO HANOI. IN RESPONSE, DEPTOFFS STATED THAT US HAD WORKED THROUGH UNHCR, ICRC AND FRIENDLY

THIRD PARTIES, BUT THAT VIETNAMESE APPEAR TO BE MAKING DECISIONS ON RELEASE/NON-RELEASE OF FOREIGN NATIONALS FOR REASONS ENTIRELY OF THEIR OWN. DEPTOFFS NOTED THAT NEITHER CANADIAN NOR AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS, WHICH BOTH ENJOY GOOD RELATIONS WITH HANOI, HAD ANY SUCCESS IN SECURING EARLY RELEASE OF THEIR CITIZENS RELEASED ALONG WITH AMERICANS OCTOBER 30.

7. FOR STOCKHOLM AND TOKYO: AFTER DETERMINING WHAT REPRESENTATIONS KOREANS PLAN WITH HOST GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF THEIR CITIZENS AND DIPLOMATS IN SAIGON, YOU SHOULD MAKE APPROPRIATE SUPPORTIVE REPRESENTATIONS. YOU SHOULD STRESS HUMANITARIAN INTEREST OF USG IN EFFECTING

DEPARTURE FROM VIET-NAM OF ALL FOREIGNERS WHO WISH TO LEAVE; THAT KOREANS REMAIN ONE OF LARGEST GROUPS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS STRANDED THERE; AND THAT PLIGHT OF IMPRISONED DIPLOMATS, INCLUDING MINISTER OF FORMER ROK EMBASSY, IS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO ALL NATIONS WITH DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN VIET-NAM.

8. FOR PARIS: IN VIEW OF UPCOMING FRENCH MISSION TO HANOI, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR FRENCH TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF ALL FOREIGNERS AND DIPLOMATI PERSONNEL, INCLUDING KOREANS, STILL IN SOUTH VIET-NAM. YOU SHOULD SEEK FRENCH COOPERATION IN THIS REGARD. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPATRIATION, CITIZEN PROTECTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE273671  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** LMPETERS/FMLC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750403-1006  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751132/aaaabbvn.tel  
**Line Count:** 141  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ROK NATIONALS IN SAIGON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PDIP, CASC, JA, SW, VS, (HAHM)  
**To:** STOCKHOLM PARIS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006